

MARYLAND

COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

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“Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government. so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them. JEFFERSON.”

COLONIZATION MEETING.

A public meeting of the friends of Colonization, was held in Light street Church, on the evening of Monday, Nov. 7th, in pursuance to a notice given in the public papers, by a Committee of the Board of Managers. The galleries were appropriated to the coloured people, quite a number of whom were in attendance. The house was well filled with a very intelligent audience.

The Rev. Dr. Henshaw was called to the Chair, and F. H. Smith, Esq., appointed Secretary.

The Rev. Job Guest was invited to address the Throne of Grace.

The Chairman then introduced Dr. Samuel F. McGill, colonial physician at Cape Palmas, to the meeting, stating that Dr. McGill was a native of this city, had left it when quite young for Liberia, where he had resided for about sixteen years. That during that period he had returned and received from a medical institution, in the United States, the degree of Dr. of Medicine, that experience had proved him the most successful practitioner on the coast of Africa.

Dr. McGill then addressed the meeting, and we much regret that we are unable to give a better sketch of his remarks. He first gave a geographical description of the various American colonies on the coast: then of the quality and productions of the soil, its timber, grains and fruits: then of the wild and domestic animals of Africa, and their varieties of fowl and fish. He then gave a sketch of the character and government of the colonies, of their influence on the natives; repelling the charge of their hostility to them, or of their being injurious to the operations of the missionaries to Africa; but on the contrary, proving from many well attested instances, that vast numbers of the natives had embraced christianity, and assumed the habits and garb of civilized life, solely through the instrumentality of the colonists.

Dr. McGill then stated his opinion of the condition of the coloured people in the United States, and expressed his conviction that they must seek a home elsewhere; that although the whole slave population should

be manumitted, yet no hope would remain of their ever attaining social or even political equality with the whites; that the only course for them was to *separate* and leave the whites in possession. But then the question would arise, where shall we go? What hope is there that Canada offers adequate inducements to the coloured man, when he is to be thrown in contact with the same class of the white population from which he has suffered so much in the United States, viz: the lower classes of the working population of old countries? And with a government wholly in the hands of the whites what more can be expected or ultimately realised than in the United States? In the West Indies too, what can we expect more? Certainly nothing at present. Ultimately to be sure the West Indies may, and probably will become free and independent, but how long first none of us can tell. But in Africa and in Africa alone—in the land from whence our forefathers came, can we be really and immediately free and independent!

Dr. McGill spoke of the African coast fever, not as an objection to emigrating to Africa—not as a curse—but as the greatest blessing ever bestowed upon the African race. It affected the black man but lightly, the white man severely and fatally. It is the black man's wall of defence against the encroachments of the white race; a pillar of fire to the African, but a cloud of darkness to the oppressive whites. He closed by strongly inviting his coloured brethren to emigrate to Africa, expressing his perfect satisfaction with the colony, and his aversion under any circumstances to ever residing again in this country.

Dr. McGill's remarks were received with a round of applause, and it has often since been remarked to us, that considering the delicacy of his situation, and the very difficult task he had to perform of addressing a white and coloured audience in the city of Baltimore, he acquitted himself remarkably well.

The President of the Colonization Society, Mr. Latrobe, then addressed the meeting in a style powerful and effective, even for him. He said he required no better demonstration of the effects of African colonization than was furnished in the person of Dr. McGill and his father's family. He said one of his earliest labours in colonization many years since was to fit out the father of Dr. McGill, then a coloured citizen of Baltimore of ordinary standing for one of the better class, for Africa. And now behold the result of that one man's removal. George R. McGill, the father, is now the second officer in the colony of Maryland in Liberia—his eldest daughter is now the wife of John B. Russwurm, Esq. the governor of that colony—his eldest son is the gentleman who has addressed you this evening—his second son is now a commission merchant in Monrovia and commercial agent for the largest mission station on the coast—his third son has for the past two years been supercargo of a vessel out of the port of Baltimore, trading on the coast of Africa with a cargo under his sole control of \$20,000. And now, said Mr. Latrobe, can there be found in the whole United States a coloured family of the intelligence, standing and respectability as that of George R. McGill? And to what cause is this surprising change to be attributed? To Colonization! to the removal of the coloured man from the influence of the white race. Mr. Latrobe's address was very short, confined

mainly to the subject as illustrated by the McGill family, but it was a convincing and powerful one, and was most warmly applauded by the audience. In fact we doubt if there ever was gotten up a colonization meeting in Baltimore productive of more interest in the cause. As proof of which they came down liberally with the cash at the close of the meeting in aid of the large expedition which is now fitting out.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Latrobe at the conclusion of his address, and adopted.

"Resolved, That this meeting entertain undiminished confidence in the wisdom, humanity, and ultimate success of the colonization cause, and regard it whether as a missionary enterprise intended to plant a christian nation among a heathen people, to the evangelizing of the latter; or as a scheme of philanthropy and patriotism, as deserving the attention and support of the entire community.

"Resolved, That the statements of Dr. McGill, have been heard with much interest by this meeting and are highly gratifying, and that the success which has attended him individually, and the position which he now occupies should have a powerful tendency to influence others of the people of colour in appreciating the advantages of colonization.

"Resolved, That the increase of the spirit of colonization among the free coloured people of the state, as manifested in the number of applicants for passage to Cape Palmas, calls for a corresponding liberality on the part of the friends of the cause, to furnish to the emigrants the means of seeking a home in Maryland in Liberia.

"Resolved, That a subscription be set on foot this evening, the proceeds of which shall be applied to fitting the expedition which it is proposed to send from Baltimore, in the early part of the ensuing month.

The following letter addressed to the Editor of the New England Puritan, (the paper in which Chancellor Walworth's Report appeared,) is from a clergyman of the Presbyterian communion, a warm friend both to the colonies and the African missions, and who knows more of the character and position of the parties therein referred to, and in fact of the merits of the case, than any man in the United States; and it is a source of the sincerest gratification to us, that *such* a man comes forward and expresses fair and liberal views upon this subject. It is our serious conviction, that the colonists, and the colonies, have been unnecessarily assailed, and unjustly censured.

ED.

REV. DORUS CLARK:

WATERBURY, *Vermont*, Oct. 26, 1842.

Dear Sir,—Our former acquaintance induces me to trespass on your time with a few remarks relative to the difficulties at Cape Palmas.

My attention was called a few days since to the communication of Dr. McGill, and your appended notes. I think your notes, instead of securing "justice to be done," are calculated to have the contrary effect. Under note (a), after admitting the *error* of the Committee of the Board in stating, that the difficulty grew out of a fine upon a *Native* instead of a *Colonist*, which you *term*, as I hope is true, an "*inadvertent fall*," you remark, "it has no particular bearing upon the merits of the case under consideration." I differ from you entirely. It is as I suppose a *material* point in settling the *origin* of the difficulties. If it had been a "*native African*" over whom the colonial authority had attempted this exercise of power, the course of

the missionary in resisting it, would at least have had some palliation, but when he attempted to *resist* the action of the law upon "a colonist" who had sworn to obey that law, and drawn his land, and was a citizen, it greatly alters our opinion of the propriety of his course. As this was the first difficulty and occurred four years after the colony was begun, it is material to know whether the difficulties which now exist at Cape Palmas, between the coloured governor and the Rev. J. L. Wilson, originated in the improper attempt of the governor to extend his authority unduly, or in an improper effort of Mr. Wilson to resist his government. It should be remembered too, that while a white man was governor this difficulty did not arise, but shortly after a black man assumed the reins of government, it began. Was Mr. Wilson more disposed to resist a coloured governor than a white, or was the coloured governor more strict than his predecessor? Dr. McGill says the difficulty originated from "the extreme aversion of the white missionary to be subject to the authority of a coloured man," and the fact above alluded to, gives this opinion some support. *The difficulty originated soon after a coloured man became governor, and from the resistance of a white missionary to the operation of the regular law of the colony upon a colonist who had sworn to obey that law.*

You proceed from Dr. McGill's history of the case of John Banks to convict him of error in saying Banks was not a teacher at the time the fine was imposed, but a servant. I think your note entirely an error. Banks did not become a teacher until he had been with Mr. Wilson for some years, and as I understand, not until the difficulty had arisen. Mr. Wilson, as I understand it, not only resisted the enforcement and authority of colonial law over scholars and teachers, but also over *all persons attached to the mission as servants*, whether colonists or natives. If I am in error—"the functionaries of the Board" can inform you, and the real state of facts can be ascertained. I think Banks did not become a teacher until after the difficulties about his doing military duty had arisen.

You add, "We learn from an unquestionable source," &c. &c. Allow me to ask: Did your authority inform you, whether this special arrangement was made, previous to the attempt to fine Banks, or subsequently, and in order to obviate further difficulties? You will perceive the answer to this question will materially modify your note. If an arrangement was subsequently entered into, it cannot affect the merits of the previous difficulty, but rather serve to prove a disposition on the part of the Maryland Colonization Society to meet the wishes and even prejudices of the missionary, and deviate from a general rule to gratify the Prudential Committee.

You will please recollect, that these remarks are all made as to the *real origin* of the difficulties, and in this connection the language of Mr. Wilson to Gov. Russwurm, quoted by Dr. McGill, has an important bearing—as indicating the extreme ground taken by the missionary at the time the first difficulties originated. Is there not in that language an offence to the governor, as great as well could be given, and was it not well calculated to stir up the spirits of any one, not a poor crushed slave, to resistance. The coloured governor found a white man denying his authority—bidding defiance to his officers with legal process, and assuming in an arrogant tone principles which, if assumed by others, would have been seditious. Was not this calculated to awaken his jealousy, and if he had the soul of a freeman—lead him carefully to maintain his authority? Admit that afterward the missionary, obeying the instructions of the Executive Committee, retracted his offensive words, that does not alter the fact as to the *first* origin of the difficulties. The offence had been given, the strife for mastery began, and the coloured governor and community set at defiance by a missionary.

We all know how difficult is the healing of quarrels. We all know how; when jealousy of intentions is excited, the slightest event assumes importance, and therefore, though in the progress of a difficulty usually, both parties take wrong ground and bad measures, we lay the principal blame upon the aggressor and original wrong-doer.

AMICUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

Dear Sir,

As full and interesting information concerning the establishment and success of the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas, as well also of the other Colonies in Liberia, have been repeatedly presented to the public, it is presumed that further statements from me on this subject are at present uncalled for, except so far as they may be strictly illustrative of the views embraced in the present article.

Having been a resident in Liberia for the last sixteen years, having shared with the Colonist the vicissitudes and privations that naturally arise in newly settled countries, and having witnessed their triumph over every difficulty, and their present state of prosperity, I can feel no hesitation in presenting my views on the claims which African Colonization has to the full and deliberate consideration of the coloured American.

For the last eight or nine years I have eagerly sought to be informed of every event or scheme that tended either immediately or remotely to affect the interest of the African race. From both Europe and America we possess ample means of intelligence, and nothing bearing on this subject, nothing that has for its object either the elevation or farther depression of our race escapes the attention and comment of Liberians. We are not as many imagine so far blinded by our zeal for the present system of colonization, as to reject any other reasonable project designed to benefit our race, nor do we join in repudiating the measures of such as choose to display their interest in a different way, and through a different channel than that selected by the members of the Colonization Society. We are disposed to avail ourselves of every event, to attach ourselves to any nation, race, party or sect that extends to us the most reasonable hope of success in the great work and object of our existence. We care not in what way, nor in what country we are located, so long as we see a fair prospect of extricating ourselves from the state of thralldom under which we seemed perpetually doomed to labour in the U. States.

Considering the present unhappy condition of the coloured population in the United States such as any intelligent man, cherishing the true spirit of freedom, would be happy to escape from, and that no perceptible or available remedy exists here, by means of which they ever can arrive at perfect equality with the whites; on mature reflection, it has become my serious conviction that Africa is the best location for them, and on that account the most desirable refuge from the oppression and deprivations which we labour under in our native land.

In advancing this opinion I am perfectly aware of the liability there is of incurring the indignant censure of a majority of coloured Americans, most of whom think themselves (and very justly perhaps) as much entitled by birthright to a residence in America, as those who claim the soil and exercise the exclusive right of government. In this they do not differ from Liberians; we love our native land none the less because we abandon it; but during our stay here, it was discovered that however patriotic our feelings, however desirous and willing we might be to immolate ourselves for our country's good, it did not serve to release us from the prejudice and weight of oppression under which we laboured. We therefore preferred Africa and its dangers, to living as slaves in America.

It is taken for granted that every intelligent and reflecting coloured man within the boundaries of the U. States, viewing his condition as it really is, must be convinced that here he *never can* enjoy equal privileges with the whites, and discovering this, he is ready to acknowledge the necessity of a removal to some other spot more congenial to his own views and wishes. The necessity of this removal acknowledged, we would naturally suppose, that in order to give weight and efficiency to such measures as were judged best adapted to the general good, we should concentrate ourselves as much as possible in one part of the world, rather than render abortive those measures by a division of numbers. With this very important point before us, let us pass in brief review the principal locations pointed out as likely to facilitate this all important object of our lives, viz: our elevation to an equality with the Caucasian race.

Canada first claims our attention from its situation, and from its serving as a refuge for the oppressed coloured American. No objection will be raised on account of climate, for until convinced to the contrary, I shall believe that the coloured man can so far adapt himself to a cold climate, as to possess an equal amount of health and activity to the whites. In Canada however, climate out of the question, we are placed in contact with the same race of men that we left in the U. States. From their proximity to America it is to be feared that they have imbibed their feelings towards the African race. We find the same prejudices existing, slightly restrained perhaps by equable and just laws which neither regards nor acknowledges difference of complexion. But we there too encounter the greatest enemies of the coloured man in the lower class of white labourers who flock from the mother country in great numbers, and from whose insults even the law itself is an inefficient protection.

From their superior means and facilities of an early education, we are, (except in a few cases) unable to enter into successful competition with the whites in any high or lucrative pursuits. Owing to the same causes also, we are incapable of taking any part in the organization of the government, or of filling important offices; in a word, we are there as here, "the hewers of wood and drawers of water." As a matter of course, this state of things must continue until there exists a perfect equality in intelligence, refinement, and wealth, which would necessarily extend the period of our probation beyond the brief term for action allowed the present generation. We will however suppose them as having arrived at the necessary point as regards qualifications, yet still many questions naturally present themselves, and many doubts arise which the reader may dispose of in his own way. The most important of these are—will the two races harmonize? will there exist a perfect social, as well as political equality, having intelligence rather than race and complexion as the standard by which society shall be graduated? Or will not this claim be the fruitful source of unceasing discord, as is incontestibly proved in the history of ancient nations similarly situated.

The Northern and Eastern states, or the free states as they are called, are sometimes referred to as extending that protection, and guaranteeing to us all those rights of which the coloured man is deprived in the Southern states. Fortunately I am enabled to form a tolerable correct estimate of the protection, and the extent of these rights, from having enjoyed them a year or two under the most favourable circumstances in New England. It is true the laws are less oppressive, and are not enacted for any particular race—they do not annul the evidence of coloured men, nor do they require him to become invisible at a particular hour in the night, and providing he possesses a certain amount of real estate (in some of the free states) he is not prohibited from voting. But his privileges and duties as a citizen extend no

farther. Even in as small an affair as a militia muster I have heard it proclaimed by an unprejudiced New Englander that "all persons were expected to appear, except Indians and Niggers."

If to the *well known blessings* now enjoyed at the south, we add the above enumerated privileges, and it constitutes liberty in its strict sense; then according to his contracted ideas no man will find it necessary to remove from the U. States to reap its full enjoyment. But it is supposed that the most of us consider that true liberty in any government, is where mankind of whatever race are only so far restrained by human laws as is necessary for personal security, for personal liberty, and for the general good of society.—Where none of the avenues to civil or political elevation are obstructed, where a man has full scope for all the faculties and powers conferred on him by his Creator, so long as he infringes no impartial law.

In the states of New York and Pennsylvania, whilst the number of the African race were smaller in proportion to the whites than they now are, a very favourable state of feeling existed toward them, but as their numbers increased, and as their pretensions to equality became more conspicuous, it has been accompanied with a corresponding degree of ill-will and prejudice toward them, on part of the whites. The frequent occurrence of riots and lawless outrages committed on the coloured people in the free states, afford the strongest proofs of this. When the mere protection of the persons and property of the coloured man is considered, his situation at the south is incomparably better to that in the free states, for here knowing the limits assigned them, they presume not to exceed the bounds of prudence, consequently they escape positive ill treatment—and when individuals are occasionally assailed, they find ready protectors in *southern gentlemen*.

The advantages of more honourable pursuits and the certainty of constant employment cannot be urged in favour of a residence in the free states, for it is evident that no higher pursuits are assigned us there than here; indeed, let us be situated any where within the boundaries of the United States, and our avocations are the same, and of the the most humble of these, we are daily deprived by the rapid influx of foreign competitors. In the principal cities, where the driving of hacks, drays, and vehicles of every kind were at one time wholly in the hands of coloured men, we now see them engrossed by the whites; so also with regard to situations as porters, stevedores, waiters, sawyers, barbers, &c., and in no part of the United States is this becoming more common than in New York and Pennsylvania.

It is rare indeed that we see coloured men engaged in any regular mechanical trades, and when thus engaged their share of public patronage is so trifling that it affords them but a meagre subsistence.

Many circumstances conspire to impress us with a favourable opinion of emigrating to the West Indies. I refer to those islands owned, governed and protected by Great Britain; a nation that has by her acts proved in innumerable instances, her desire to make restitution for the share she has taken in enslaving the African race. She has, at an enormous expense, cut loose the bonds of all her slaves, and is now the *only nation really engaged* in vigorous efforts for breaking up the slave trade on the Coast of Africa. Under a full knowledge of these circumstances we cannot but entertain the highest notions of British philanthropy, and of her sympathy in the cause of the oppressed, and however her various projects for our benefit may be frustrated by circumstances, we feel conscious that they emanate from sincere feelings of benevolence, and still our prayers and hopes are directed to her for assistance, for effectual and permanent relief from the most bitter curse that was ever inflicted on mankind.

Entertaining these views, it would be repugnant to my feelings to

advance aught having a tendency to engender distrust in the British Government, or in the policy of emigrating to her colonies: indeed were there not special causes which in my opinion render a removal there, injurious to the present interest of the free coloured people of the United States, I should consider it a far preferable location to any other part of the world.

Previous to the abolition of slavery in the West Indies, it was predicted that the planters would secure a greater amount of labour, and profit by liberating the slave, and allowing him a fair remuneration, than could possibly be realized by his involuntary servitude when accompanied with the expense of support. In this, however, they have evidently been disappointed, for the knowledge of the relative situations of both parties anterior to the emancipation rendered it almost impossible for the master on the one hand so to alter his accustomed manner and intercourse with his freedmen, as to make such service either pleasant or satisfactory—and on the other hand, for the liberated slave, so to practice those restraints (which the peculiarities of such a situation would render truly difficult for even the most intelligent,) as to avoid the imputation of unreasonableness and presumption. The master once *exact*ed labour, whereas now he finds it necessary to *request* it, and that he must allow them full and satisfactory remuneration for such labour, otherwise the free British subject walks off.—The existence of such difficulties caused a diminution of the requisite amount of labour. To remedy this evil, the planter was compelled to resort to the expedient of introducing labourers into the islands from other parts of the world. They have not only employed coloured Americans, but white Europeans, and have even obtained large numbers of Kroomen and recaptured Africans from the coast of Africa, all for the purpose of supplying the necessary labour that had been lost by the abolition of slavery. The introduction of coloured Americans, might be considered as emanating from the humane and charitable desire to place them in contact with the liberated, so as to exert a moral and christianizing influence; but the motive fails, when viewed in connection with the untutored savages, fresh from the coast of Africa. Thus it will be seen that in the West Indies and Guiana, we are expected to engage in labour, that from some cause is absolutely refused by the emancipated slaves. It may be argued that the emancipated slave has taken advantage of his situation to indulge in idleness natural to his disposition. Not so however by those who think better of the race. I think evidences can be found to prove that it mainly arises from an unwillingness to allow him sufficient remuneration for his labour.

To the performance of agricultural, or any other labours, no possible objection can be raised; but when pursued it must be with the hope of ensuring us comfortable maintenance and ultimate profit. In all free communities the more humble classes are employed by the wealthy, yet the former are none the less respectable, and have ever the same avenues to honour and wealth, that have been attained by their employers, providing they are industrious and frugal. We need no stronger proof of this than can be seen in the United States; where we one day witness the struggle of a white labourer in obscurity and poverty, and on the next observe him rolling in affluence and wealth, and perhaps closing his career an honourable and respected member of society. Instances can be pointed out where white and coloured persons, pursuing the same avocations, with intelligence and enterprise decidedly in favour of the latter, and yet the white has arisen to wealth and public consequence, with scarcely an effort, whilst the poor black still toils in obscurity.

Coloured Americans are very similarly situated in the West Indies, for

the lands are held by wealthy planters, and are of value only when cultivated as a whole, no disposition or division of them being made to suit the wants or limited means of the coloured immigrant, who rarely or never possesses means for extensive purchases. I presume not to say that there may not be individual exceptions. Among the large numbers that have emigrated, doubtless a few have engaged in lucrative business, and may have become possessed of property, but the mass of emigrants are referred to, as we look not particularly to the interest of individuals to the exclusion of the general benefits of the entire race of Africa.

Being situated in precisely the same relation to the planter, that was formerly held by the slave, being required to perform the same labour, and being in addition exposed to a tropical climate without the same adaptation, I cannot conceive that the coloured American can realize a moiety of that comfort and satisfaction so confidently expected on leaving his native land.

Other very important circumstances likely to control our future destinies can be pointed out, which should lead us to reflect seriously on the prudence of removal to the West Indies. One of these is the gross immorality and destitution of virtuous principles, in both the African and European residents there.

The European locates himself there for accumulating wealth, and rarely suffers his attention to be directed from this object. He contemplates the African race as specially designed to contribute to his comfort or necessities, or to the gratification of every base and sensual passion, to which mankind are subject. No wholesome restraints are imposed upon him by the virtuous morals of the people, for they have received their impression from the unprincipled whites, who once owned them as slaves. The pure African has no conception of morality and virtue, other than is drawn from the civilized beings with whom he is placed in contact. The effect of this has been nearly to reduce the state of society even below that existing in purely savage countries. Domestic relations are not respected, nor is the prostitution of virtue suppressed or punished. This lays the coloured American open to the most flagrant acts of injustice, for which in the present state of society he has no remedy. The offspring of Americans are viewed in the same light as the illegitimate offspring of the African by their white parents, and but few would scruple to practise the same means of seduction with the former as with the latter.

As much as we are oppressed, and as contemptible a rank as is held here by the coloured American, there are those among us who thoroughly appreciate and have striven to impress upon the minds of our offspring precepts of virtue and morality, and who would be sorry now to expose them to influences which must prove injurious. The object of removal is to gain civil, moral, and political elevation—our efforts are for the benefit of the young and rising generation, and we like not to expose them to the pernicious influences of unprincipled men, who know or acknowledge no difference between individuals of the same race, even although one is a savage, and the other civilized.

Not only does this state of things exist in the British West Indies, but in British colonies on the coast of Africa, where it has become a rule for the whites (males only reside there,) to select some of the African females as their mistresses during their temporary sojourn. When custom sanctions such gross deviations from the path of rectitude, and when the prostitution of female virtue becomes a matter of unprincipled exultation, would it be reasonable for us to expect happiness to ourselves or families?

SAMUEL F. MCGILL.

(To be continued.)

Finding the following questions and answers in the last number of the African Repository, we have thought proper to copy them into our Journal.—Although there is nothing new contained in them, yet they embody in a concentrated form much useful information.

It will be recollected, that in the Colonization Convention assembled at Washington in May last—a Committee was appointed to memorialize congress upon the subject of our African colonies, the African trade and the slave trade. The Hon. F. S. Key, being chairman of that Committee, propounded the following questions to the Editor of this Journal, with the view of appending the same with the answers thereto to his memorial.

DR. HALL'S ANSWERS TO MR. KEY'S QUESTIONS,

IN RELATION TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES OF LIBERIA.

No. 1. How long and under what circumstances have you been acquainted with the western coast of Africa, the colonies there established, and the course and extent of commerce on that coast, and the state of the slave trade?

I have been well acquainted with the American colonies on the coast of Africa since November of 1831; having at that time received the appointment of assistant physician to the Colony of Liberia, where I continued for near two years. I subsequently, under the direction of the Maryland State Colonization Society founded the Colony at Cape Palmas denominated Maryland in Liberia. I remained in this Colony for the term of three years in the capacity of Governor and Physician, during which time I made some general surveys of that section of the coast, ascended a large river near one hundred miles, and made many treaties of amity and commerce with the kings and chiefs in the territory contiguous to our settlement. Subsequent to my resignation of the Agency of the Maryland State Colonization Society, I commenced mercantile operations on the coast exclusively on my own account and personally superintended by myself, extending from Sierra Leone to Cape Coast Castle, although mainly confined to the vicinity of the American colonies, and at all the slave marts between Sierra Leone and Cape Palmas. Since that period I have been acting as General Agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, have still a vessel trading on the coast, and maintain from both causes an extensive correspondence with the colonies.

No. 2. State the present condition of these colonies, particularly that of Cape Palmas, and under what circumstances it was founded, and at what expense, and how it is governed, and the number of inhabitants in them all?

The term Liberia is applied to an extent of about 300 miles of the west coast of Africa, commencing at about $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of north latitude, and running due south-east in true course to Cape Palmas in $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees north latitude, thence about thirty miles nearly east to Tabou: extent into the interior undefined. The whole of this coast line, however, is not under the jurisdiction of the American colonies. Many points being occupied by English and American trading factories, and one until very recently by a slave factory. The first settlement was made at Cape Messurado the northern-most point of Liberia, which has extended some distance into the interior up St. Paul's river, on which are the villages of Millsburg, Caldwell and White Plains. The town of Monrovia was at one time the centre of very extensive trade from the interior; large quantities of camwood and ivory were shipped from this port. This has in a great degree been broken up by the energetic prosecution of the slave trade at Gallinas about one hundred miles to the northwest. This colony is rather on the decline, cer-

tainly in point of numbers, owing to the decided unhealthiness of its location, and the calls made upon it for the establishment of new colonies; although it is yet the capitol of Liberia proper. About 25 miles below Messurado is Marshall, a small town at the mouth of the Junk river. Some fifteen miles further are established many large colonial factories at a place called Little Bassa. The next principal settlement is Edina on the north side of St. John's river, and opposite to it, on the south side, is the colony established by the New York and Pennsylvania Colonization Societies. Some five miles up the St. John's is a new town or farming section called Bexley. The colonies at Bassa, or *this* colony, (for they were incorporated into one a few years since) are in many respects preferable to those on the St. Paul's, and deserve equal rank and importance. The jurisdiction of the colony ceases at Bassa Cove, and no just claim is made to territory by the American colonies for near 100 miles to the Sinou river, where the Colonization Societies of Mississippi and Louisiana established a colony under the most favourable auspices and which would, if properly fostered and supported, be one of the best on the coast. The river is large and affords a safe and commodious anchorage for all colonial vessels. The extent of territory purchased on the coast is very limited, and the colony but feeble from the scarcity of its members. You again follow an extent of near one hundred miles of coast line unclaimed by the colonies until you arrive at Cape Palmas which was purchased by the Maryland Colonization Society in February, 1834. This colony embraces about 1500 square miles of territory, extending along the seaboard about 35 miles. Its character is strictly agricultural, producing in the greatest abundance vegetable provisions for the consumption of its inhabitants and for supplying commercial and national vessels. Although established but eight years since, it is far better fitted for self-support than any other colony on the coast. Here was the first carriage-road made in the colonies, and here, to a greater extent than in any other colony, either English or American, is the plough used in agriculture. This colony now contains about 600 emigrants, mostly from Maryland, and the statistics of births and deaths show it to be on the increase independent of immigration.

The total expense of the founding of this colony, purchase of territory, transporting emigrants, furnishing supplies, paying the salaries of officers, both in America and Africa, has been about \$130,000, \$86,000 paid by the State, about \$20,000 by individual contributions, and \$20,000 accruing from trade by the agent of the Society in the colony.

It is characterized as being strictly a temperance colony, ardent spirits having never yet been admitted except as an article of the *Materia Medica*. And it is remarkable, too, for having been settled and thus far nurtured without war or open hostility with the native tribes embraced within its limits.

I am unable to state the number of emigrants in all the colonies, but they probably fall short of four thousand. I presume it was not the intent of your question that I should enter into a detail of all the statistics of those colonies, and shall therefore merely state in addition to the above, that as to territory, they have sufficient, and as they increase can extend it sufficiently, to accommodate the whole coloured population of the United States, although it would be desirable to increase the extent of coast line at as early a period as practicable. With regard to the fertility of the soil it is unequalled in richness and abundantly productive of all the great variety of tropical fruits and vegetables, and of the most valuable staples of export in the world.

OF THE CHARACTER OF THE LIBERIANS.—Their government is strictly republican, representative or elective. All officers of what cast soever, are coloured men, all elective, save the two Governors, one residing at Messurado, appointed by the the American Colonization Society, and the other at Cape Palmas, appointed by the Maryland State Colonization Society. Of their capability to maintain such form of government experience is the best evidence, as in no one instance has the constituted authorities been set at naught or trampled upon.

The colonists are generally religious and moral; perhaps a greater proportion are members of some Christian church than is to be found in any other community. A large majority of them, particularly the younger portion of the community, are instructed in the common branches of education, and some are truly intelligent and learned. The most eloquent preachers and most successful physicians are coloured men. In their commercial transactions they are as upright and honourable as could be expected, considering their former habits of life. I think they are capable with proper protection and patronage and judicious and select additions from the United States, in time, to accomplish an entire moral and political revolution in Western Africa.

No. 3. What is the nature and extent of the trade they carry on with the natives and with other countries?

I have no statistics from which to answer your third interrogatory, and can only say in general terms that the citizens of the early settlements are decidedly a commercial people. As I before remarked, there was at one time a very large commerce carried on at Monrovia. There were then established six regular commission houses; quite a number of coasting vessels were employed in the native trade, and some foreign vessels were constantly in the roadstead.

At the present time, although the trade from the interior is greatly diminished from causes before noted, yet the coasting trade is well sustained, extending from Sierra Leone to Cape Palmas. The colonists build small vessels of from ten to forty tons, and trade for the commodities of the coast with merchandise purchased from European and American vessels. In the prosecution of this coast trade they labour under great disadvantages, as their competitors, the foreign merchants, are the very ones of whom they are obliged to purchase their merchandise, and to whom they are to sell the produce of the coast in payment. Were the whole coast between Cape Palmas and Monrovia secured by treaty to the colonists, an ample field would be open for the prosecution of a very extensive and profitable commerce. But this would not be practicable, as the natives prefer open and free intercourse with the trading vessels of all nations.

No. 4. What effects have they produced on the natives in their vicinity?

The effect of the colonies upon the native tribes both near and remote is decidedly favourable; and that perhaps to a greater extent than is often the case in the colonization or settlement of a new and barbarous country. Although in Liberia proper there has not unfrequently occurred wars with the surrounding tribes, yet the evils arising therefrom are far more than counterbalanced by the good effected. The commercial intercourse with the natives alone is of vast benefit to them individually, besides tending rapidly to develope the resources of the country. Their indirect benefit too, through the missionary establishments within the influence of the colony is of weighty consideration, as I am well convinced without their protection no mission station could have been established; and certainly not successfully prosecuted had the American colonies not existed. But the most important advantage accruing to the natives from the establishment

of the colonies, arises from the bare fact of the existence of a community of blacks like themselves maintaining a well regulated government, and conversant with, and exercising the arts and habits of civilized life. It is a universal impression pervading all the tribes of Western Africa, that the white man is of a distinct and superior order of being, that there is an inseparable bar between the two races, that one is doomed to be a savage, and the other a civilized man. The bare existence of the colony is a convincing demonstration of the absurdity of their opinions, and will do more to elevate them in the scale of being, than could be done by all and every other measure that could be projected.

No. 5. State the course and extent of the slave trade as at present existing.

As my knowledge from personal observation is confined almost exclusively to what is termed the windward section of the west coast of Africa, called the Grain and Ivory coasts, I shall only speak of the slave trade as carried on there. It will at once occur to you that any thing like definite or accurate statements with regard to the number shipped will be out of the question, as the trade has for a long period been only prosecuted clandestinely. To the windward of Sierra Leone the traffic has heretofore been prosecuted pretty extensively, in the Rio Nunez and Pongas, the Rio Grande, and in Bissaios or Bissaigos islands. Not having visited either of these places, I am unable to speak with much accuracy of what has at any time been the number shipped, but should think, from what I know of the amount of goods sold at those factories, that at least ten thousand were shipped annually from all. I believe, however, most of them have been broken up by the English cruisers. The Gallinas river, about 100 miles to leeward of Sierra Leone, has been the most important and extensive slave mart on the windward coast. Here were located at least eight factories, generally containing from two to four hundred slaves each; and from all those were shipped annually at least ten thousand, and by some estimated at double that number. Connected with this mart are many smaller factories scattered along the coast, as at Sugary, Cape Mount and Digby where slaves are purchased by sub-factories and sent to Gallinas for shipping, or perhaps to which large quantities of slaves have been sometimes transported for shipment, when Gallinas was over strictly guarded. This market since my last visit to the coast has been broken up by the British cruisers, and I am entirely unable to say whether the factories have been abandoned. To the leeward of Cape Messurado, some twenty miles from Bassa, existed another factory at a place called New Cesters, which was likewise broken up at the same time with Gallinas. The principal agent, a Florentine by birth, has since settled as a merchant at Cape Mount. To what extent the slave trade is carried on at these places since the landing of the boats' crews of the British cruisers and the destruction of the factories I am unable to say; but doubtless were the cruisers at all to relax their vigilance, it would immediately be prosecuted with the utmost vigor. From the immediate vicinity of New Cesters no other slave factory has existed for a long period, until you reach Whidah, a distance of over 1,000 miles. I believe there has been at least four British cruisers stationed on that section of the coast of which I speak, for the past five years, and perhaps at times more. The great mart for the slave trade, however, is far to the leeward, commencing at Whidah and extending south of the line to Cape Negro, a distance of near two thousand miles, including the Delta of the Niger, the Congo and Gaboon rivers.

No. 6. State the course and extent of the other commerce on that coast, and the prospect of its increasing importance.

The whole extent of the coast line of West Africa is a mart of com-

merce. There is not often an extent of ten miles of beach without its canoe landing and small or large trade towns established, specially for the purpose of exchange of commodities with merchant vessels. In many places the trade is very inconsiderable, not being sufficient to induce the master of a trading vessel to clew up and anchor; in others of an equally unpromising appearance, the whole cargo of a vessel may in the time of an ordinary voyage be exchanged for African produce. In the large rivers many vessels of from two to four hundred tons are continually to be seen engaged in traffic.

The principal articles of export in former years were gums, wax, malagatta pepper, hides, ivory and gold. All these articles are now of secondary importance to dye-woods and palm oil. The latter article when used barely for the manufacture of soap and in woollen factories, has found a ready and permanent market both in Europe and America. But of late, experiments have been made by which the stearine is separated from the ealine, both of which products being in great demand, it may reasonably be supposed that any amount of the article will always find a ready market at a fair profit. The production of this article is greatly on the increase, and no probable limits can be fixed as to the extent to which it can be furnished. In small towns where I could ten years since only purchase a few gallons in calabashes for the use of my crews, it is now obtained in puncheons for exportation. In fact the whole palm oil trade of the windward coast has been formed within the last twelve years, and now thousands of puncheons are shipped annually.

The camwood is one of the most important dye-woods in the world, and we believe is mostly if not altogether obtained from Africa, and it can there be obtained to almost any extent, being, in the interior, one of the most common forest trees. The demand for it is steady and uniform both in this country and in England.

The principal articles used in trade with Africa are tobacco, rum, gunpowder, muskets, cotton goods in all varieties, silks, many articles of hardware; many also of crockery and glass ware. Beads in all their varieties, and various trinkets of small importance, and for which the demand is decreasing. The article most in demand, and that which must necessarily constitute a portion of every cargo destined for the native trade, is tobacco, and of that kind which can only be obtained in the United States. The article next in demand, and of which the amount used far exceeds that of tobacco, is the coarse, heavy cotton goods, made in imitation of many varieties of the Indian cottons. These, it is believed, can be produced at as low a price in this country as in Europe, were there sufficient encouragement offered to induce our manufacturers to engage in imitating the particular patterns required. Gunpowder and rum can also be produced here cheaper than in England. These five articles actually constitute two-thirds of the value of a cargo used in the palm oil and camwood trade. The main importance of this trade to the United States I should attribute to its affording a steady and increasing market for the above articles, two of which are important staples of the country. There is also a great demand for the various articles of American provisions at all the various settlements on the coast, (excepting the English, from which our salted provisions and fish are excluded,) and which will rapidly increase as the settlements multiply and enlarge.

No. 7. By whom and under what advantages and disadvantages is it now carried on?

I should judge that at least three-fourths of the native trade of the whole continent of Africa, excepting the Mediterranean, of which I know nothing, to be in the hands of the English. Of the remaining fourth, perhaps the

Americans have one-half, and the balance is divided between the French, Portuguese, and Dutch. The English maintain the ascendancy for many reasons: in the first place, they were at one time the most extensive and successful prosecutors of the slave trade, and obtained jurisdiction over many important points of the coast at that time. Then, the goods used in the slave trade by all natives even to the present day, are mainly the production of England and her India colonies, tobacco only excepted. Consequently, upon the abolition of the slave trade, a vast extent of the coast was under English influence, and a demand existed for the products of her manufactories.

Again: England is the great central mart for all articles of commerce for the whole world, and there, more than any where else, a market may be found for all African produce. The amount of capital, too, in England seeking investment is a powerful instrument in opening new sources of commerce. But added to all these, and perhaps as powerful in its influence as all other causes combined in securing a majority of this trade to the English, is the manner in which the trade is carried on, and the general and ample protection afforded by the English Government to the African commerce. The whole trade of the African coast consists in a system of barter of commodities. Every large tooth of ivory, quintal of camwood, or cask of oils, must command in most instances a moiety of every article used in that commerce. The want of one important article of trade, as for instance a musket, tobacco, or even a cutlass or flints, will prevent the trader from making a purchase, even although he may offer four times the value of the article in question in other merchandise. From this cause, when the commerce is well established and a demand created for all articles desired in that trade, the merchant will enjoy great advantages in the complete assortment of his cargo over his less fortunate competitors.

Then there is established throughout the coast a system of credit which is exceedingly prejudicial to the vessels of all nations whose commerce is not specially protected. The native tribes on the beach are merely the factors for the people of the interior, and have no capital to trade upon; consequently the foreign trader is obliged to land his goods to be sent into the interior and exchanged for his return cargo. His whole cargo, therefore, is at the mercy of these people, and when there is no protecting power at hand they are solely governed by what they may deem their interest as to the amount which they will refund. If the merchant is an old trader, and it is supposed he will continue the business, they are anxious to secure a continuance of his custom and probably may pay him up well. But on the other hand, should it be a transient vessel, and one which it may not be supposed will visit the coast again; but a poor return will be received for the cargo landed. Now, the British Government maintains a large squadron on the coast, whose duty it is, in addition to the suppression of the slave trade, to form treaties of commerce more or less perfect with the African chiefs and head trade men, to see the conditions thereof well fulfilled, to demand satisfaction for all trespasses by the natives on the persons or property of the British subjects, and to relieve their merchant vessels in cases of wreck, pestilence, or any other disaster. This, it will readily be perceived, gives the British commercial vessels very great advantages over those of all other nations, and renders their commerce on this barbarous coast (where to the vessels of all other nations the risk is so great as to swallow up the large profits of the trade) almost as safe as in any part of the world, where it is protected by the regular custom-house laws of civilized nations.

No. 8. What in your opinion is necessary to give our vessels the benefit of this trade ?

In order to secure to our African commerce the same footing as is enjoyed by that of England, nearly similar measures must be adopted as are in operation by that Government, varying however, according to our peculiar relations with Africa.

In the first place there always ought to be a certain amount of naval force on that coast, cruising from Sierra Leone to Ambrize bay, frequenting most those parts where the American trade is most largely prosecuted. This is perfectly practicable, without the least risk of the sacrifice of the officers and crews from the climate, by observing the most simple precaution, viz: not to permit any officer or seaman to sleep or remain on shore after night fall, and not to enter any of the rivers during the rainy season or near the commencement or close of the rains.

The smallest sized vessels with one good pivot gun are as effective and useful as a frigate ; and the very swiftest sailers only can be useful.

A general commercial agent should be established at the most suitable place on the coast, having under his charge a depot of provisions and marine stores for the benefit of the national vessels, and many of the more important articles for supplying commercial vessels on payment therefor, as from slight losses of anchors, chains, spars and sails a voyage is entirely broken up ; whence the exorbitant insurance charged for vessels engaged in that trade. The depot ought to be made at Cape Palmas, for three very important reasons: 1st. It is decidedly the most healthy station on the coast of Africa. 2d. It is the most central point within the range of the American commerce. 3d. It is the point most easily attained, from other and more powerful causes than its greater proximity.—It is the southwest point on the coast of Guinea, where the coast line, after running from Cape Verd nearly in a due southeast direction changes to due east and east northeast. It is then, a prominent point and easily made in the rainy season, when for a long period no observation can be had, as from the direction of the coast on making land you can always judge whether you are to the windward or leeward and govern yourself accordingly. At certain seasons, too, owing to the steady course of the wind from one point and the strong current created thereby, no vessel can beat to the windward, and most of the year a disabled vessel would find it difficult to do so. Vessels bound to windward are often in sight of port three or four days and unable to get up. On this account it is very important that Cape Palmas should be selected. Another matter too, is worthy of notice: Cape Palmas is the most productive part of the Grain Coast, where rice is always procured for trading vessels bound to the leeward, and from which other colonies are often supplied.

(To be continued.)

FOR CAPE PALMAS.

The Barque Globe, of 4500 bbls. capacity, will positively sail on the 10th of December for the above port, to touch at Monrovia. Emigrants begin to come in, and we have a continued prospect of a large expedition. The capacity of the vessel is such that we could receive large additions to our numbers if immediate application is made.

November 26th.

✂ All communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to DR. JAMES HALL, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

